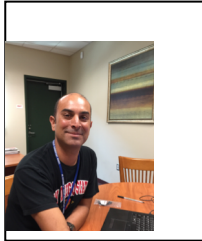


TIGER TALK

The Voice of Valley Elementary PTA

May Issue V (2017)



The Principal's Desk

Ricardo Ceceña

Class Placement for 2017-2018 School Year

About this time of year, minds begin to look toward summer and plans for the vacation, but for parents of school-aged children, the thought of getting just the right program for their child, come August, can be cause for reflection. Please be confident that each grade level designs class lists to provide balance, heterogeneous groups and that each teacher takes seriously their responsibility of providing every student with what they need to do their best. Therefore, the following criteria are used to create "balanced" classes:

- Balanced boy to girl ratios
- Balanced distribution of student abilities
- Balanced distribution of students with special needs
- Balanced number of native Spanish Speakers to native English Speakers in our DL program.
- The clustering of identified GATE, ELL, or RSP students into workable groups
- Equal class sizes
- The nature of the learner... their need for structure, routine, etc.
- Separation of students who have a history of not working well together
- The nature of the teacher, specialized training, skills, interests or presentation style

Parents are reminded that there are many factors and situations considered when placing students in classes. Some teachers will have clusters of specially identified students.... GATE, RSP, ELL. Some classes will need to be balanced with more boys or girls. Some students will need to be separated to more evenly distribute students with behavior issues. Some classes may be multiage/ multi-grade. **Due to the complexity of the process we are not able to accommodate parent requests.** A great deal of care and time is taken by our professionals configuring classes each year. All of our teachers address the appropriate California Academic Standards for your child's grade level and modify and/or accelerate the curriculum to meet your child's individual needs. The two classroom configurations in Poway are based on sound educational research and help address our wide range of learners.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

The Principal's Desk	1
PTA President's Message	2
Photo Highlights	3
Counselor's Message	4-5
2016-2017 PTA	6

Thank you for honoring our process by not requesting specific teachers either through letters or conversations.

Because class sizes and configurations are based on number of students enrolled, we will not know until the beginning of the school year if there will be multiage/ multi-grade classes. Possible classroom configurations your child could be assigned to at Valley:

- Single-grade classes have all students from the same grade level.
- Multiage classes are comprised of an approximate 50% – 50% split of grade levels. The goal is to have the younger students "loop" with their teacher to the next grade, providing a two-year continuity of learning. You will be given the option at the end of the year to continue in the multiage class.
- "Looping" with current classroom in a single-grade classroom would occur when the teacher changes the grade level he/she is teaching and moves to the next grade level with his/her students.

Thank you for your continued support. When parents and school work together it can only benefit your child.



PTA President's Message

Denise Anger

April has been another fun and busy month for our school. On Saturday, April 29, students, teachers, and parents joined Valley PTA to celebrate **Día del Niño**. This is a signature event for Valley as it is a celebration of the children and showcases the wonderful culture we have here. The day was gorgeous and couldn't have been more perfect for our festival. This year Día del Niño included Baile Folklorico dancing, Mariachi music by Southwest Middle School in Chula Vista, games, crafts, a free book table, the Scholastic BOGO book fair, food, and desserts.

Thank you to the many volunteers who helped make the day a success. Events like Día del Niño really resonate with our PTA mission of providing the cherished memories of elementary school that we all want for our children. I appreciate all the hard work that went into making these events something for our children to remember.

Valley's first-grade teachers went above and beyond to show appreciation for all of the amazing Valley volunteers on Wednesday, April 26, at our annual **Volunteer Appreciation Tea**. A wonderful breakfast was provided along with a beautifully decorated MPR. The tables were adorned with fairy houses and personal notes of thanks from many of our students. The PTA thanked all of the volunteers and in particular honored those with greater than 100 hours of service.

They are: Liz Collins-Smith (102 hours), Sandie Sears (107), Juvelyn Montes (113), Megan Manlove-Smith (117), Shawna Hamon (123), Kelly Tognetti (124), Sara Langer (142), Doris De Ayestaran (157), Lili Husseman (169), Shawna Hamon (200), Denise Anger (228), Selena Pankretz (255), Cathy Barger (317), Carol Crafts (389), and Marlene Rauch (456). During the tea, the PTA was able to present a commemorative check to Mr. Ceceña totaling \$204,000 representing what it would have cost Valley to pay our many volunteers for their time and service.

We also held our **Spring General Assembly meeting** at the Volunteer Tea and elected the PTA Board for the 2017-2018 school year. Congratulations to Lili Husseman – President, Denise Anger – Executive Vice-President, Monica Valdez – VP Ways and Means, Adriana Gonzalez – VP Programs, Yadira Terrones – VP Membership, Selena Pankretz – VP of Art Programs, Sandie Sears – Treasurer, Erica Fandino – Recording Secretary, Angela Gutzmer – Financial Secretary, Kelly Tognetti – Auditor, and Serena Arellano – Historian.

Even as the year draws to a close, we have more fun to look forward to in May. **Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week** is May 8-12. Our students and PTA will be providing an amazing week full of gratitude for our wonderful Valley Teachers and Staff. Then, on Saturday, May 13, we will be having **our Sock Hop Family Dance** from 6:00 to 8:00 in the MPR. Be sure to don your best 50's attire and come and enjoy our last family night of the year. **Field Day** is Wednesday, May 31, and we are looking for many volunteers per grade level to help with the many activities that day. Please email valleypta@yahoo.com to participate.

Remember, many hands make light work!

Spring Highlights



Baile Folklórico



Mariachi



Volunteer Appreciation Tea

A Message from the School Counselor

Veronica Tapia

Setting Kids Up For a Successful Summer

Summer is almost here and it really is a wonderful season of opportunity for kids. In summer, kids no longer have the social and academic pressures that they have been dealing with during the school year which leaves room for growth and development in other areas. Meaning, just like when we have a lot on our plate at work we might feel overloaded and have little mental and emotional space for other things, the same is very true for kids. Even if our kids enjoy school, their brain can only focus on growth in so many areas at a time and once summer arrives, it provides a new opportunity for kids to make strides in areas that might have felt overwhelming to them during the school year.

To be clear, this isn't to say that summer has to be focused on pushing our kids to achieve more and reach goals all summer long. Summer is also a wonderful time to allow kids to simply be kids. To allow for relaxation, lazy days and even boredom where kids discover the fun of building a fort out of whatever they can find at home or simply running through the sprinklers in the backyard.

The beauty and magic of summer is that it can easily provide for both. It is a unique time where kids can get back to the business of just being kids while also having unpressured time to explore, identify and develop strengths and passions, reach new developmental milestones and become more confident, independent and self-sufficient.

With that in mind, here are a few questions that can be helpful to reflect on as we enter this special season of summer.

1. What is one developmental milestone that I would like my child to reach this summer?

Summer is a great time for kids to learn how to tie their shoes, ride a bike, swim, etc. If kids were resistant to learning any of these things during the school year their brains might just be ready to take on a new challenge now that the pressure of school is off.

2. Does my child already have a passion? If yes, what can I do this summer to help nurture it? If no, what can I do this summer to help my child explore possible areas of interest?

There is nothing like finding that one true thing we are passionate about. Discovering our passions and spending time on them is a great way to build confidence. And, during challenging times in our life, having that area of interest to turn to can provide a type of comfort and security that we might not get anywhere else.

3. What is one thing that I am doing for my child today that she could be doing for herself?

This can be a really powerful question for parents to ask themselves. While kids may appreciate

having us do things for them, eventually these positive feelings turn to feelings of incompetence and inadequacy. One of the greatest gifts we can give our children is to help them to develop independence. Summer is a great time for kids to learn how to make their beds, load the dishwasher, make breakfast and help with other household responsibilities.

4. Are there any traditions that I want to start with my child this summer?

Research shows that there is incredible value in family traditions. Traditions bond family members to one another and gives all members routines and rituals to look forward to. Most importantly, traditions give children a sense of identity and help them to feel grounded and secure in a life full of continuous changes.

5. What is one thing I can do for myself this summer to practice and model self-care?

When we are depleted we are no good to others. Summer is not just for kids, it is for us too. Before it slips through our fingers and we find ourselves buying back to school supplies, let's be sure to plan some fun for ourselves this summer so that our kids can see that adults are important people in the family unit too who need to take care of themselves so that they can take care of others.

This article was written by one of my colleagues, Teresa Zucchet.



Valley is in need of more Noon Duty/Playground Supervisors. If you are interested, please email Mrs. Bradley at cbradley@powayusd.com.

Valley Elementary PTA Board 2016-17

Elected Officers	First Name	Last Name
Principal	Ricardo	Ceceña
President	Denise	Anger
Executive V.P.	OPEN	
1st V.P. Ways and Means	Adriana	Gonzalez
2nd V.P. Programs	Audra	Rosati
3rd V.P. Membership	Lili	Husseman
4th V.P. Art Program	Heather	Schmalbach
Recording Secretary	Erica	Fandino
Treasurer	Sandie	Sears
Financial Secretary	Kelly	Tognetti
Auditor	Kelly	Kersey
Historian	Serena	Arellano
Parliamentarian	Kim	Jones
Committee Chairs		
Character Counts	Emilie	Koford
Corresponding Secretary	OPEN	
Hospitality	Sara	Langer
Newsletter	Kim	Niehans
Website Administrator	Shawna	Hamon
Room Parent Coordinator	Emilie	Koford
School Admin Assistant	Gretchen	Snyder
Teacher Liaison (ENG)	Gale	Caddell
Teacher Liaison (DL)	Maribel	Martinez
Translator	Elizabeth	Hulterstrom
Volunteer Coordinator	Shawna	Hamon
Workroom Wednesday	OPEN	
Spirit Wear Sales	Kim	Jones
After School Programs	Jennifer	Berk
VEEF Liaison	OPEN	
Assemblies	Liz	Collins-Smith
Facebook Administrator	OPEN	



GET INVOLVED & JOIN VALLEY PTA

- Visit the Valley PTA website
<http://www.valleypta.com/>
- Contact Denise Anger if you are interested in any of the open PTA board positions.

